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Gypsy Moth Manual

Regulatory Section

Hazardous Sites

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Hazardous Site Definition

A Hazardous Site is a site where the gypsy moth is present on the premises, on **Regulated Articles**(s), and/or in the surrounding area. Hazardous Sites are likely to provide a pathway for artificial spread to non-infested areas.

Hazardous Sites include, but are not limited to, the following sites from which Regulated Articles are moved:

- ◆ Christmas tree plantations
- ◆ Log, pulpwood, and wood chip mills and associated yards
- ◆ Logging sites
- ◆ Military bases (due to infested vehicles and cargo)
- ◆ Mobile home parks
- ◆ Nurseries
- ◆ Recreational areas

Movement of Regulated Articles from Hazardous Sites

PPQ officers or State personnel will usually inspect Hazardous Sites under Compliance Agreements (CAs). Typical CAs for Hazardous Sites are in **Appendix G**.

Regulated Articles can be moved from a Hazardous Site under a CA without inspection of individual shipments when either of the following occur:

1. The Hazardous Site is inspected and found not to be a potential pathway for the artificial spread of the gypsy moth (no gypsy moth infestations found); or
2. The Hazardous Site is inspected and found to be a potential pathway for the artificial spread of the gypsy moth (an infestation found), and treated with an approved insecticide to eliminate the risk.

Inspection and treatment are discussed in detail in the following.

Inspection of Hazardous Sites

Time of Inspection

Inspections occur after leaf fall, because egg masses are no longer hidden by the leaves.

Inspections often occur during and after blow-in (usually the months of April through June) to detect larvae.

For regulatory purposes, inspections can occur anytime during the shipping season.

To determine if multiple inspections are necessary, inspectors will rely on their knowledge of (1) current population densities in the immediate area, (2) previous history of the Hazardous Site, and (3) the results of a current inspection of the Hazardous Site.

Method of Inspection

When inspecting Hazardous Sites, inspect the premises, all Regulated Articles, and all preferred hosts in the surrounding area for signs of gypsy moth.

Inspection Results

Inspectors will use their judgement and the following criteria to determine if conditions favor the artificial spread of gypsy moth:

1. One egg mass (or more) found on the Regulated Articles or within 3 meters (10 feet) of the articles.
2. Twelve or more egg masses per hectare (5 per acre) are found within approximately 30 meters (100 feet) of the articles.
3. Heavy larval infestations found within 1,600 meters (1 mile) which could result in infestation through blow-in or larval migration into the site.

When any of the above conditions (or similar threatening conditions) exist, a PPQ officer can issue an Emergency Action Notification (EAN), PPQ Form 523. The EAN will state the required action(s) that must be performed to allow shipment. See the *PPQ Treatment Manual* for more information on the EAN.

Treatment of Hazardous Sites

Insecticide applications to Hazardous Sites may be either (1) aerial applications or (2) ground applications by hydraulic sprayers or mist blowers.

Aerial applications are usually preferred to ground applications. Aerial applications give better insecticidal coverage to the forest canopy and surrounding areas. Aerial applications are usually used to treat in or near the following Hazardous Sites: recreational areas, mills, nurseries, and Christmas tree plantations.

Ground application using a hydraulic sprayer is the preferred method for treating mobile home parks or isolated areas in nurseries.

When to Treat

Apply the insecticide when general egg hatch is completed in the area. Make applications when first, second, and third instar larvae are present. Proper timing of the treatment is essential. Pesticide effectiveness is reduced when the larvae are beyond the third instar. Insecticide application for larvae is most effective from about May 1 to June 15—a few weeks earlier in southern sections of the regulated area. Best results are obtained if application can be delayed until general foliage of preferred hosts is one-third to one-half grown. If possible, apply treatments immediately before movement of Regulated Articles.

Treating the Hazardous Site

Treat the infested portion of the Hazardous Site. Treat the surrounding area to a depth equal to the effective range of the spray equipment in use. A minimum depth of 70 feet will usually suffice to keep migrating late instar larvae from reinfesting the site. If reinfestation does occur, additional treatments will be necessary. In heavily infested sites, two or three applications 7 to 10 days apart may be necessary.

Documentation

After treatment of a Hazardous Site, a PPQ officer will determine the effectiveness of the treatment. If the treatment was (and is) effective, the PPQ officer will note the action taken on the EAN and then rescind the EAN.